

Remains of 2 Bodies Found in Franz Valley

By JAMES E. REID

Two teenage boys hiking in Franz Valley found the remains of at least two bodies yesterday.

Sheriff Don Striepeke said the area where the remains were found was cordoned off and a guard placed at the scene all night.

Coroner's officials and sheriff investigators returned to the spot this morning to remove the bones and search the ground carefully in the daylight, the sheriff said.

The bodies were discovered by Glen Frost, 17, of 1183 Raplee Terrace, Fulton; and David

Brooner, 16, of 2810 Francisco ave.

The sheriff said the boys were hiking in the hills in Franz Valley about three miles from Porter Creek rd. and found the remains when they returned to their car on Franz Valley rd late yesterday afternoon.

He said the bones were about 60 feet off the narrow two-lane county road down a steep embankment in a heavily brushy area.

The boys returned home and notified Harold B. Frost, father of the Frost boy, who called the coroner's office.

Sheriff's Deputy Kirk Spaulding was dispatched to the scene with Identification Technician Robert Stowe, who arrived at the spot pointed out by the boys around 7 p.m.

Sheriff Striepeke said his officers positively identified the remains of at least two bodies, but further activity in the area was called off because of the darkness.

He said he arrived at the scene himself around 8:30 p.m. with Undersheriff Robert Hayes, Lt. John Hess and District Attorney John Hawkes.

Because of the difficult ter-

rain and the darkness, the sheriff said he decided to hold off further investigation at the site until dawn.

Sheriff's Detective Sgt. Lee Jammie was in charge of the investigation this morning, directing the work of identification technicians and coroner's officials, the sheriff said.

Sheriff Striepeke said this morning it was impossible to determine how long the remains had lain on the ground, but said it did not appear the bodies were buried.

He also said officers had not determined last night if they

had clothes on.

Because the officers held off on examining the remains until this morning, the sheriff said he had no information on the possible cause of death.

The officers had a triangle of some 150 square feet roped off this morning and spent hours meticulously measuring various points before beginning removal of the remains.

The base of the triangle was along Franz Valley rd and its tip was approximately 100 feet down: the embankment near

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Franz Creek.

Within the roped off area some seven spots were marked with yellow plastic streamers where bones were found, but officers said there were at least an additional dozen or so spots outside that area where other bones had been located.

Two skulls were found, which officers said means at least two separate bodies are located at the site.

They said it was impossible to determine this morning if there were remains of other bodies located in the area.

That will apparently not be determined until all the bones are collected and studied.

Officials said the skulls appeared small, but it was impossible to determine the age of the victims.

"We may have to call in an anthropologist to help identify them," Deputy Coroner Richard Adams said this morning.

Officers said three deer skulls were also found in the same general area and it could be that some of the other bones belong to those carcasses.

Heles Found

Several holes were also found within the roped off area, which officers said would also have to be checked to determine if they contained skeletons.

The detailed examination of the site will take all day today and further work may be required tomorrow, officials estimated this morning.

The two boys who found the bones yesterday returned to the spot this morning to watch the officials at work.

They said they had been hiking along Franz Creek yesterday and came up the steep embankment to reach Franz Valley rd.

One skull lay about 50 feet off the road with what appeared to be the remains of a rib cage just below it.

A second skull was located farther down the embankment and several feet to the right of the first spot.

What appeared to be part of a rib cage was also found under a small bush about 20 feet off the road.

Officials said as they stirred up the leaves and underbrush within the roped off area they found additional bones and it may become necessary to dig in several spots as the investigation proceeds.